

(Washington, DC)— The United States House of Representatives yesterday passed its fiscal year 2010 Commerce, Science, Justice Appropriations Act, which contained two provisions secured by Congresswoman Gwen Moore, D-Wisc., to benefit Milwaukee non-profit organizations. Lissy's Place in Milwaukee will receive \$180,000 to continue providing transitional housing and supportive services to former foster youth as well as homeless or abused single women between the ages of 18 and 29. Justice 2000, Inc. will receive \$100,000 that will enable the organization to serve more low-income Milwaukee residents by providing support services to help recover driver's licenses. The bill will now go to the Senate for its consideration.

"These funds will be used to meet the needs of our community," Rep. Moore said. "By providing protective services to women who have been subjected to abuse, poverty, mental illness or homelessness through no fault of their own, Lissy's Place is helping to fulfill the responsibility we have to our most vulnerable populations.

"And, by expanding the capacity of Justice 2000 to help recover suspended or revoked driver's licenses for low-income residents, these funds will help ensure that members of our community are able to commute to and from work in difficult economic times and a weakened job market. When drivers lose their licenses for non-safety violations, they are faced with the choice of driving illegally, or not driving at all, putting them at a serious disadvantage in the workforce. This important program helps to keep our drivers licensed by finding alternatives to license suspension and through education."

"We are very grateful to Congresswoman Gwen Moore for her enthusiastic support of the \$180,000 appropriation for Lissy's Place that has just been approved by the House," said Constance Palmer-Jones, Chief Executive Officer of My Home, Your Home Inc., which operates Lissy's Place on Milwaukee's West Side. "This funding -- if enacted into law -- will ensure that the women will have a safe place to stay while they complete their educations, obtain medical care, develop employment skills and find jobs. Congresswoman Moore has once again shown her compassion and legislative skill. We thank her."

Lissy's Place has helped more than 400 women since 2001. The organization provides a room for each of its entrants, and requires that the residents partake in schooling, job training, job searches, employment, workshops in self-sufficiency, homework and medical appointments. Many of the facility's residents come to Lissy's Place with little to no income. Some have just been released from the foster care system upon turning 18, and others may have been to

subjected to domestic violence, have a dependency on alcohol or drugs, have a mental illness, or have fallen on hard economic times causing them to lose their homes.

Lissy's Place is able to serve 17 women at a time, and about 70 women per year. Residents are allowed to stay for two years. While at the center, each woman is required to pay 10 percent of their income in rent and put \$75 each month in her personal savings account. The funds secured by Rep. Moore will help sustain the supportive services of Lissy's Place and ensure that the facility is able to stay open during tough economic times.

Justice 2000 will receive \$100,000 to expand the capacity of its Center for Driver's License and Employability program, which works to address the number of licensed drivers among low-income Milwaukee residents. By doing so, the program helps to ensure that these low-income residents are able to sustain employment. In the Greater Milwaukee Area, 75 percent of the total job openings are located in the suburbs. This has resulted in a significant challenge for job seekers in Milwaukee's central city, and underscores why it is important for these residents to be able to drive legally.

Specifically, this program provides direct case service management to low-income Milwaukee residents seeking to restore their driver's licenses; increases community education; aims to restore free driver's education for low-income students statewide; and identifies and advocates for system changes that limit the use of license suspension and revocation as a punishment for unsafe drivers, while also increasing the use of alternatives to suspension and revocation when drivers fail to pay fines.

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